

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 10, 1999 LB 202, 607

will have those numbers to you here in about another three weeks. But it is going to be a very difficult situation to balance because of the very large numbers in some of the programs, albeit the school aid and the property tax relief issue. Those are millions, not thousands. This bill, if I'm clear, is going to total \$1 million over the biennium, 500,000 in the main bill, 202, and I think it's a half a million, I can't find it right off hand, but I think it's a half million for the Neighborhood Grant Program, that's a million dollars over the biennium. And so I'm simply cautioning you that now is the time not to start new programs, not to even continue ones perhaps in this case the Governor did not fund it. I know there are some good projects out there, and there are some waiting in the wings. But I think this is a good place to start saying no. In fact, I'd even stick my neck out a little bit and say this might be some of the easiest ones to say no to, because ahead of us lay very difficult "no's", if we are going to hold the line on spending. And so on this specific amendment I would urge you to consider it carefully and to not add new programs to our spending and vote no on the amendment and ultimately on LB 202.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the body, we heard (LB) 607 in the Urban Affairs Committee on the second of this month. And we did discuss it in Exec Session, a little bit about it. I guess, from my perspective, where I got heartburn on the issue was with...the bill only asked for \$50,000, which is not...in our state budget is not much money. But what bothered me was that CED was asking for \$13,000 to administer it, the program. And I guess my time in the body is that if an agency wants a program, the A bill is low; if they don't want it, it's high. And maybe that's the case with this. But also I think in some of the testimony, and Senator Preister probably knows, I don't have any neighborhood groups in my community, not that I know of, it's Omaha and some other areas. And so it was something new. And I thought Senator Preister brought up a point about there was...I think he asked one of the people something about a weed and seed program, which was, you know, new to me. And the person that was testifying for this bill, as I remember it, you know my memory is very faulty, is